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Failure of FSSAI - 2006 act triggers rise of mafia in adulterated Cheese-Milk business : Deputy Mayor

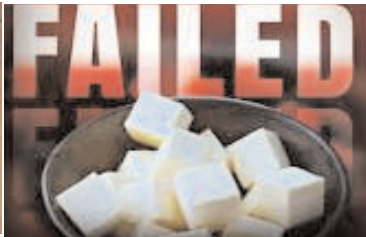
Scourge of fake milk, paneer, yet selling like hot cake threatening safety of public health

Commissioner News Service
Mohali : "Milk residues after the boil are adequate syndromes of fake milk since mafia in own regime are seen flourishing unchecked by the health authorities " bemoaned Kuljit Singh Bedi Deputy Mayor. The impurity of "Paneer" may be corroborated by dropping two ,three, drops of iodine solution, the adulterated milk product will manifest blue / black colour appearance, has now become the metaphor otherwise there are many instances where in Zirakpur cheap Paneer at the rate of Rs 250 was being sold in open market kicking high rates of quality cheese. "If food safety officials check honestly the quality of pure milk made, cheese,sweets, not a single

would qualify the test of purity," challenges a social worker in Zirakpur. The synthetic paneer is usually found manufactured with the aid of starch , detergent, inferior quality of soya paneer .The consumption of adulterated paneer may plague a patient with kidney / liver ailments. The kidney patients in ultimate for survival are routed for surgery, only the way out remains against the disease lent by fake cheese consumption. The consequences of fake milk products are seen in the multiplying strength of patients seen as wandering, queuing up in PGI, Sector 32, Sector 16, Civil Hospitals Pkula , Mohali, as well in neighbourhood Govt hospital Kharar, and Dera Bassi. The enforcement of Food Safety & Standard



Authority Act of India doesn't seem any where strictly being applied, so is the mockery being made by the sweets and milk traders available under their nose. Rarely quantum of fake milk sweets are thrown ,viewing it as a catastrophic hazard to human health. For instance about 4 months gone ,one Sweet Trader in wholesale ,Sector 8 Pkula, was apprehended with sweets halwa having insects, no action has yet been taken against the trader, on the plea of sample taken for check, but for



unknown indefinite times where it was evidently visual , since insects were seen crawling in voluminous sweets, prima facie without samples, instant action was the urgent need but the action delayed was never implemented instead adjustments were made as enforced on the pretext of peanuts. The sweet trader is enjoying his business with overwhelming immunity, such are the fictitious and impure ways of the health department. Another illustration here



must be cited, as in Parliament, one Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan had alarmed , during 2017 , the house about the large scale prevalence and consumption of synthetic milk, the ruling political re gime got amazed to see the straightforwardness valour of the minister, rest is seen, he was never given any ticket for contesting his jurisdictional seat. "Neither the Animal husbandry department has taken care of strengthening the successive hike in the



cattle for more milk nor has the health department taken care of the food safety of milk and its dairy products for the magnifying populace in the state," bemoaned the Deputy Mayor. The Food Safety and Standard Authority of India) act 2006 not being enforced has led to the collapse of standard quality and purity, point out always many a person. The quality of milk made sweets and cheese is no where available in Mohali as well within the whole

district, says Kuljit Singh Bedi, and he has written a grievance letter to the Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann urging for stern action over the dominating fake and contaminated milk products as the population in Mohali is escalating by leaps and bounds. Nevertheless, large quantity of paneer and milk is being thrusted in the Mohali markets . People are constrained to spend on the treatment over the fast spreading diseases due to inferior, fake milk products . The branded milk too are

not pure as they after boiling leave behind chemical residues very easily can be noticed. Mr Bedi has demanded fast stern action against the mafia, criminals who perpetrate adulteration for petty profits. The children and aged people are more prone as the contaminants attack normal hygienic functioning. As the genuine quality of pure milk has vanished and the dismissal of mafia regime is not very easily convenient nor can pure milk of cows, buffaloes in huge quantity be made available, meanwhile private players in the dairy development be vigorously encouraged since demand for pure milk has transcended viewing an escape from pervasive spread of diseases due to ruthless mafia.

Over 90% ahata licences not displayed for public scrutiny



Commissione News Service
AMBALA : Against a laid down fee, issuance of licence is made to applicant of ahata owner. Over fulfilling certain norms the authorisation document pertaining to "Ahata" is handed over by the excise and taxation department to the applicant for routine functioning. The ahataa owner usually is expected to sell snacks, soda, allied consumable products. In case, one intends to avail " Ahataa"



facilities , he would like to know the legality of the "ahaata" functioning and check the authorisation/ licence . The CNS on its survey found that over 90% ahaata had not displayed any copy of licence issued by the excise department, nor had any convincing rational reply. Even some narrated that they had not received or applied for the requisite document. Such type of events certainly incur huge loss of



revenue to the ministry of Excise & Taxation department. While talking to Excise Officer Jitender Dhooi about the non displayment of the Ahata licence, bereft of the essential document, was it not creating administrative lacune. Mr Dhudhi said the ahaatas bereft of authorisation display were illegal as consumer had right to know the validity of the ahataa authorisation document.

Dejected village community mourn loss of basic civic facilities at Kauli Majra

Commissioner News Service
Lalru (Kauli Majra) : Persistent neglect of provisioning civic amenities at Kaulimajra village has plagued the residents of the concerned village. Basic facility like pot water, drainage system for outflow of waste water, amiss of metalled street are the syndrome of the development being manifested by the present government said Madan Sharma ,Vice President, Mulayam Singh Yadav, Youth Brigade, Punjab unit based at college Road DeraBassi. The jurisdictional municipal administration is in slumber as the residents keep cursing for no fault of theirs being in Punjab. Only thing, they can do is to pray for the categorical civic amenities but no heed by the local administration . Such type of neglect has driv-



en them to observe protest dharma beginning on 26 Jan 2026 which would terminate over burning of effigies of top political leaders including Bhagwant Mann ,Chief Minister, Constituency legislator Kuljit Singh Singh Randhawaand other accountable officials. On the distress call, given by the afflicted residents of the village, Madan Sharma has decided to observe a requiem and deprivation with forwarding to honourable President and Home Minster of India.

No more toll collection on highways from 2026 end --Gadkari

Commissione News Service
New Delhi : "The government has planned to roll-out a multi lane free flow (MLFF) system", said Nitin Gadkari, road transport and high way minister on Wednesday. Highway commuters will not be required to stop to pay user fee at National highway toll plazas by ending 2026 . The FAST tag annual pass launched in August allows private vehicles to cross 200 plazas also will enjoy big relief after this



new introductory step. Cameras above the road would read the number plate and user fee will automatically debited from the vehicle fast tag account. Even driving at 80 km speed too, will see this facility sans any slow down or enroute halt proclaimed the minister in Rajya Sabha.

Nuclear power sector thrown open by parliament for private players

Commissioner News Service
New Delhi : The nuclear power sector legislation proposes, among other things, the grant of licences to private entrepreneurs to operate nuclear power plants. The parliament passed the Sustainable Harnessing and Advancement of Nuclear Energy for Transforming India (SHANTI) Bill on Thursday. The Bill, which was cleared by Lok Sabha on Wednesday, was introduced in Parliament on Monday by Union minister for state for atomic energy Jitendra Singh. The provisioning of licences would ensure removal of an existing contentious liability clause for suppliers of fuel and technology, as well



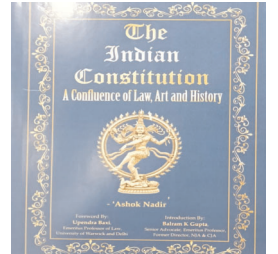
as the rationalisation of the levels of payouts by operators in case of accidents. The bill further aims to boost investments in the nuclear power sector in order to help India achieve its ambitious target of 100 GW of nuclear power capacity by 2047. "The bill marks a transformational moment for our technology landscape," said the Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

New book titled "Indian Constitution-- A Confluence of Law, Art & History" launched by author Ashok Nadir

Commissioner News Service
Chandigarh : The new book " Indian Constitution -- A Confluence of Law ,Art and History" was inaugurally launched by literature author Ashok Nadir in the premises of Press Club on Friday noon at 1PM. The most refreshing book reminds us vividly that law without culture is lifeless and reason bereft of spirit relms hollow. The Constitution harmonizes both -- bridging governance and philosophy, rights and responsibility, tradition and modernity. Our Constitution even after 75 years remains alive -- evolving with time, nevertheless eternal in its conscientious effervescence. "In words and art the Constitution continues to reflect the heart beats of the nation, a timeless promise of justice, compassion and truth for all," reads the book aloud. During the inaugural course of new edition of this book, Balram Gupta briefly showcased the attributes of the Constitution pleading the framers of the constitution



assembled in 1946. They drafted a legal framework and weaved together 5000 years of civilisational experience into a single vision. On the guidance of Dr Ambedkar, the framers blended India's moral traditions with modern principles of liberty and equality. The Constitution came into being on 26 Jan 1950,while India stepped into a new dawn as a sovereign republic -- free , confident and united in purpose. The original handwritten version preserved in the Parliament is adorned with twenty two hand painted illustrations, created by the guest artist nNandalal Bose and his students from Shantiniketan. Each illustration



captures a defining chapter of India ' journey-- from the Indus Valley and the Vedic age to the freedom movement and Independence. For decades, the artistic treasure remained hidden, as printed copies possessed only text, elsewhere vanishing the paintings which gave starkly, the document it's visual heartbeat and reverberations. On Feb 11th 2025, MP in Rajya Sabha, Radha Mohan Das Agrawal generated with a specific revelation. The Chairman,Mr Jagdeep Dhankhar affirmed only authentic version of the Constitution was the one signed by its framers -- complete with the original paintings.

President Droupadi Murmu gives assent to V-G RAM G Bill 2025, becomes law

Commissione News Service
New Delhi : President Droupadi Murmu on Sunday gave her assent to the Viksit Bharat Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) (VB-G RAM G) Bill, said the ministry of Rural Development. The Bill 2025, was passed



by Parliament, amid opposition protests. It seeks to replace the existing rural

employment law, MGNREGA, and guarantees 125 days of wage employment per rural household per financial year. The new scheme aims to establish a rural development framework aligned with the national vision of 'Viksit Bharat 2047'.

No food safety as use of unbranded cooking oil used unchecked by health authorities

No fire safety "NOC" available with the owner



Commissione News Service
Ambala : No check by health authorities is being carried out, on open cooking where adulterated cooking oil was being used even no brand of oil was visible of its registered

mark, The defaulter on Ambala - Mahesh Nagar road was fearlessly selling kachouri, smelling vegetable even shown by many visitors but of no use. All safe, healthy

cooking norms were being thrown to winds. In such a congested room, about 32 consumers were taking their food in the absence of any fire safety gadgets. On asking the owner Mr Satish Garg said he fogot to display NOCs procured from Fire, Food safety departments but realistically did not have the documents to show to the journalists.

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EDITORIAL -

Vande Mataram
gaining relevance ?

It is interesting that the BJP rather than the Congress has always taken the lead in trying to make Vande Mataram India's parallel national anthem, rather than a symbolic afterthought. BJP MP Ram Naik took the initiative in 1992 to ensure Vande Mataram was sung at the end of each parliamentary session. The suggestion was endorsed by PM PV Narasimha Rao whose personal attachment to the song overshadowed the misgivings of some colleagues. Although the troubling verses equating the sacred motherland to Goddess Durga had been shelved by the Congress in 1937, a truncation that had the endorsement of Rabindranath Tagore, the secularists were always uneasy with the consolation prize of 'national song' awarded to it by the Constituent Assembly chairman's ruling on January 24,1950. Like the Constitution's embar rassing Directive Principles that called for cow protection, prohibition of alcohol and a uniform civil code, there was a quiet hope that in time to Vande Mataram would steadily become decorative. This hasn't happened, as evident from its unceasing popularity on flag-waving occasions. A perceptive British writer observed that his country was sharply polarised between the 'somewhere' people and those who could be dubbed the 'anywhere' people. In a curious sort of way, the clash between those who saw themselves as grounded in India's distinctive nationhood and those whose sense of modernity stretched into multiculturalism and post-nationalism was evident during last week's parliamentary discussion to commemorate 150 years of Vande Mataram. To those uneasy with the Modi govt's assertive

nationalism, there was no earthly reason why valuable parliamentary time was expended on marking the landmark anniversary of the Constitution-decreed 'national song'. Judging by the subtext of their displeasure, a grand, possibly well-choreographed function in one of Delhi's grand sarkari venues may well have sufficed. Judging by the some what s u p e r c i l i o u s intervention of Congress MP Priyanka Gandhi, the debate was occasioned by the Prime Minister's waning confidence in his own governance and to divert attention from the more pressing problems confronting India. In all likelihood, those with Nehruvian mindsets would have considered exploring the fascinating bylanes of the nationalist movement less of a priority than articulating the woes of travellers inconvenienced by the mismanagement of India's largest airline. Vande Mataram, undeniably is becoming the most inspirational mantra of the freedom struggle, also carried Bankim Chandra Chatterjee's more problematic baggage. The entire song, apart from being couched in difficult lan-guage, was also seen to be too full of Hindu imagery to be acceptable to Muslim and secular sensitivities. This mattered to Jawaharlal Nehru who, in the words of Nirad Chaudhuri was "usually repelled by anything pronouncedly Hindu." In Rajya Sabha intervention, home minister Amit Shah spelt out its enormous importance. There was, first, the shared association with the national movement, particularly the martyrs who went to the gallows chanting Vande Mataram. For some time, there has been a conscious bid by the saffron ecosystem to widen the scope of the nationalist legacy to

include those the Nehru family-centric view of the past either left out or marginalised. The incorporation of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose and Sardar Patel, not to mention Birs Munda and Lachit Borphan, in the pantheon of national heroes is also part of the process of crafting a new inspirational history. The widening of the national inheritance was facilitated by the Congress abdicating the nationalist space. The indifference of the Congress' first family to the Vande Mataram debate was underlined by Shah. The importance attached to the 'censored verses from Bankim's Ananda Math is - quite deliberate. It is not that prior to 1937, the full version of Vande Mataram was always sung. However, by trying to accommodate Jinnah's ob-jection to the recurrent idolatry, the Congress Working Committee resolution of 1939 failed to stem the tide of Muslim separatism. Eight years later, Pakistan had become a reality. The lesson that top BJP leadership drew from this controversy is that minority appeasement in-variably leads to escalating demands and a corre sponding emasculation of nationhood. The linkage between the partition of Vande Mataram and the Partition of India is not to be scoffed at. Even if the full song is unlikely to be insisted upon and A R Rahman's catchy version will continue to be mis-taken for the real thing, the Vande Mataram debate is likely to be a landmark. The forthright speeches of the three top ministers of the govt have indicated without a shred of doubt that the post-Independ ence s q u e a m i s h n e s s associated with the mantra Sri Aurobindo evocatively described as the "religion of patriotism" has been finally junked.

Submit suggestions for formulation of
excise policy 2026-27 - UT Excise deptt

Commissioner News Service CHANDIGARH : Facing allegations of cartelisation, the UT Excise and Taxation Department has invited suggestions from stakeholders and general public for the formulation of the Excise Policy 2026-27. The suggestions or feedback could be submitted latest by December 30. Seeking consumer-friendly policy, Darshan Singh Kler, president, Chandigarh Wine Contractors' Association, suggested that the upcoming Excise Policy 2026-27 should be formulated while considering the transparency and to prevent "cartelisation" of the liquor trade in the city. "The policy should focus on the retailers and the consumers of the city while preventing the increase in rates of various kinds of liquor like the previous years," he

Chandigarh Administration further added. Advocate Sachit Jaiswal, who deals in excise and taxation cases, suggested that any officer against whom complaints were pending should not be the part in formulating the upcoming Excise Policy. "The administration should take steps against monopolisation of the liquor trade in the city," he said, furhter adding that a single individual from a family/enterprise/busin ess firm or as an individual should only be allowed to run not more than five liquor vends.

"To strengthen revenue protection, promoting transparency, safeguarding public health, ensuring fairness, and improving enforcement," Ajay Jagga, member, Administrator's Advisory Council, suggested that prohibition of employment of men under the age of 25 years and women. Further suggestions included that no person licensed to sell liquor should employ with or without remuneration any man under the age of 25 years or any women in any part of such premises where liquor or intoxicating drugs are consumed by the public. Besides, the number of liquor d r i n k i n g places/restaurants must be freedzed (or reduced) in the areas like Sector 10, 11, 15, 26, 32, 36 etc, where educational institutions are high in numbers.

3rd most polluted Pkl
city emerges in North

Commissioner News Service PANCHKULA : "North India continues to experience unhealthy air quality with AQI remaining in poor category. Unfavourable winter meteorology, lower boundary layer and fog limit pollutant dispersion are increasing exposure risks, especially for vulnerable groups.", commented Dr Ravindra Khaiwal, Professor of Environmental Health at the Department of Community Medicine and School of Public Health, said in a public health advisory: Panchkula recorded the third-highest air pollution level in North India this evening, prompting concerns not only over deteriorating air quality but also the reliability of pollution-monitoring system amid unusually sharp fluctuations in official readings. Only Delhi and Ghaziabad reported worse air quality, with AQI levels of 373 and 353, respectively, at 8:05 pm on Sunday. Panchkula ranked above Baddi (328), Jind (329), Gurugram (321) and Rohtak (318), reflecting the widespread impact of winter pollution across the region. Official data over the past four



days reveals extreme variation in Panchkula's air quality. On December 18, the AQI was 346 (very poor), before dropping sharply to 145 (moderate) on December 19, an improvement of over 200 points within a single day. This was followed by a sudden spike to 361 (very poor) on December 20, before easing slightly to 340 on December 21 evening. Such abrupt swings contrast with trends in neighbouring Chandigarh, where changes were more consistent. Chandigarh recorded an AQI level of 266 (poor) on December 18, 254 (poor) on December 19, 302 (very poor) on December 20 and then improved to 216 (poor) on December 21. Environmental observers noted that while both cities were affected by winter pollution, Panchkula's volatility stood out.

3 Mohali chowks target
251 trees for axetion

Commissioner News Service MOHALI : With air pollution worsening daily and AQI levels hitting alarmingly high marks, sparking a national emergency, focus has sharpened on planting trees and preserving green cover. Yet Mohali marches to its own tune. Here, trees fall unabated, ignoring the gravity of the situation. Kulwant Singh MLA launched construction on three roundabouts—at Gurdwara Singh Shaheedan, Sector 78/79, and near CP-67 Mall—at an estimated Rs 17.71 crore. About 251 trees would face the axe for building three roundabouts near the airport within the next month. The work has already begun with several green trees in Sector 79 tumbled under a private contractor hired by PUDA. Residents and environmentalists decry the persistent high AQI and winter smog, but electric cutters and axes labour relentlessly to fell mature trees. Surprisingly, no public



outery has erupted. Trees such as Jakranda (blue purple flowers), Gulmohar (red flowers), Chakrasia (tree of heaven), and neem were axed, claimed environmentalists. The Divisional Forest Officer, Mohali, has approved an extensive list of marked trees, soon to be razed by a Sunam-based firm. GMADA auctioned these 251 trees for Rs 4.91 lakh plus 18% GST, totalling Rs 5,79,380, with felling slated for completion in one month. Environmentalists highlight the hypocrisy: the government promotes 'Ek Ped Maa ke Naam', yet razes green trees shamelessly. "No word on relocation or compensatory planting," fumed environmentalist KNS Sondhi.

Monthly pass for parking
across Chandigarh
scheduled to come up

Commissioner News Service CHANDIGARH : Soon, the implementation process of a single pass system for all paid sites under its jurisdiction will be initiated. The local body has lanuched a significant step towards easing parking access for residents by initiating A high-level meeting chaired by MC Commissioner Amit Kumar was held to discuss the Phase-I rollout and integration framework of the new system. Under the proposed structure, monthly passes will be issued at Rs 500 for four-wheelers and Rs 250 for two-wheelers, offering citywide access to all MC-



managed paid parking locations. Officials from the MC, the Department of Information Technology, Chandigarh, and representatives of various banks attended the presentation-cum-pre-consultation meeting. The MC Commissioner directed that a committee be constituted to scrutinise technical and financial proposals and finalise the banking partner for implementation of the system.

Civic body to formalise new
MC limits by December end

Commissioner News Service MOHALI : Residents of TDI City, Balongi, Badhmajra, Balyali, Green Enclave have resented the decision to exclude the villages from the new civic body Limits and have even threatened to approach the court if their villages are not included in the new limits. The expansion of the Municipal Corporation (MC) limits is set to be formalised before December 31, Local Bodies Department sources have disclosed. After the deadline for suggestions and objections regarding the draft notification finished on November 6, the department has intensified the process to formalise the new MC limits as the government is keen to complete the process after much delay. Mohali MLA Kulwant Singh said, "The government has taken the decision after much deliberation keeping in mind the pros and cons of the move. However, after the residents expressed their desire to include their villages in the notification, government is considering their demand sympathetically and the decision will be taken in the benefit of all concerned." Mayor Amarjit Singh Sidhu, meanwhile, "The House had resolved to include these villages in the new limits in 2021. But now the government



has taken a decision arbitrarily. We will support the residents of these village and will knock on the doors of the court if AAP government does not reconsider its decision." Significantly, the government will have to complete the entire process before December 31 as the Registrar General of India and Census Commissioner Mrityunjay Kumar Narayan in a letter to Chief Secretaries of states and UTs has stated that the administrative boundaries will be frozen on December 31, disallowing the states and Union Territories to change the boundaries of its municipalities, panchayats, police stations, sub-districts and districts from January 1 2025 to March 31, 2027. The first phase of the Census 2026 will begin from April 1. The house-listing operation will begin on April 1, 2026 whereas population enumeration will start on February 1, 2027.

Canine bite victim to receive
Rs 1-lakh relief, court directs
owners

Commissioner News Service CHANDIGARH : Dr Bhumika Gupta, a resident of Sector 49-B, Chandigarh, had filed a suit for recovery of Rs 30,000 with interest rate of 18% per annum on account of medical and incidental expenses for treating the injuries caused by a dog owned by Divya Setia and Manpal Setia, who lived in her society. She also sought damages and compensation of Rs 2,00,000 for the reputational, economical, mental and social loss caused to her. A local court has directed the owners of a dog to pay a compensation of Rs 1 lakh to a woman who was bitten by the canine. The court also directed the owners to pay Rs 30,000 on account of medical and incidental expenses. Gupta said on January 18, 2020, she went to the terrace of her building to collect clothes hung up for drying and found Divya and her five unchained pet dogs there. One of the dogs suddenly attacked her, making her fall



down. Thereafter, the dog bit her on the forehead and scratched the flesh thereof. An extensive section of skin was completely torn off the underlying tissue. As she shouted for help, other residents of the society came out. She was taken to the hospital for medical aid. The police were informed about the incident. Both defendants admitted their mistake and requested not to take any legal action while assuring that they would bear the expenditure on her treatment. She agreed and no FIR was registered. Later, the plaintiff underwent medical treatment, which cost her around Rs 30,000. The injuries permanently

disfigured her face. She had to remain at home for around a week, which also caused loss to plaintiff's professional and social life. When asked to fulfil the commitments, including reimbursement of the medical expenses and compensation, the defendants did not give any satisfactory reply. The defendants, however, denied the allegations and claimed that they had kept only two pet dogs as per the permissible limit and the canines were duly licensed and registered with the MC. After hearing the arguments, the court ordered that the defendants to pay Rs 30,000 on account of medical and incidental expenses along with simple interest at the rate of 9% per annum. Further, the plaintiff was also entitled to damages and compensation of Rs 1 lakh to be paid by the defendants for causing reputational, economical, mental and social loss to her, the court ordered.

Chandigarh MC to hire consultant
to improve sanitation

Commissioner News Service CANDIGARH : In order to improve "Swachh Survekshan rankings" in the city, an agency would be hired at Rs 35 lakh, for suggestion of measures to improve the sanitation. For the design of a system, the Chandigarh Municipal Corporation decided to hire a consulting agency for the monitoring of sanitation services in the city. The civic body's Medical Officer (Health) in this regard has proposed for (RFP) inviting interested firms in the regards. The city has ranked second in the Swachh Survekshan 2024-25 Awards announced by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs under the 3-10 lakh population category. The city, however, performed poorly in source



segregation, scoring dismal 14%. It maintained three-star rating in the garbage-free city category, leaving huge scope for an upgrade. According to the RFP, the agency will not only suggest measures to improve the rankings but also be responsible for establishing and managing a data-driven approach for monitoring cleanliness and sanitation services across the city. The agency will design and deploy a standardised

monitoring system, tracking cleanliness efforts across all civic body circles, including activities like street cleaning, waste collection and public space maintenance. The agency will develop a real-time digital data collection system integrating GPS tracking, mobile apps and other tools to provide accurate and immediate feedback on sanitation and waste management activities. Officials will be able to monitor waste collection routes and identify problem areas such as garbage pile-ups or unclean public spaces in real time. It will assist in optimising waste collection schedules, routes and coverage to enhance collection efficiency and minimise delays or missed pickups.

Hry govt extends farmers' loan waiver
scheme till March 2026

Commissioner News Service PANCHKULA : During a meeting of the all district-level Chief Executive Officers and Managers held at the Haryana State Cooperative Agriculture and Land Development Bank (Land Mortgage Bank) headquarters information was shared by the bank's Chairman, Amar Pal Rana. The Haryana Government has extended the One-Time Loan Waiver Scheme (OTS Scheme 2022) for overdue borrower-members of the Bank until March 31, 2026. Mr Rana informed that under this scheme, overdue interest on the loan accounts of deceased borrowers of the District Primary Cooperative Agriculture and Rural Development Banks would be waived in full. If legal heir/heirs of a deceased borrower deposit the entire principal outstanding amount, they would receive 100 per cent waiver of overdue interest, along with waiver of penal interest and other charges, he said.



The bank currently has 17,229 deceased and widow borrower accounts, with dues amounting to Rs 190.70 crore in principal, Rs 246.77 crore in interest and Rs 41.68 crore in penal interest, totalling Rs 479.14 crore. "In addition, under the OTS Scheme 2022, all other overdue borrowers will be eligible for 50 per cent waiver of interest, while the penal interest and additional charges will also be waived. The scheme will apply to all categories of loans issued by the bank," Rana said. "As per the scheme, any borrower who, for whatever reason, could not repay his/her loan and was

declared a defaulter by the bank on March 31, 2022, may avail benefits of this settlement," he said. It is noteworthy that the 19 District Primary Cooperative Agriculture and Rural Development Banks together have 61,767 borrowers, with total outstanding dues of Rs 1,857.92 crore (Rs 723.55 crore principal, Rs 1,002.91 crore interest and Rs 131.47 crore penal interest). The government extended the OTS Scheme once again to facilitate repayment by these borrowers. Rana said, "The scheme has been extended for a limited period. The beneficiaries should avail its benefits on a 'first come, first served' basis. For availing the scheme and obtaining further information, borrowers may contact any of the 19 District Primary Cooperative Agriculture and Rural Development Banks or the 70 branches established at the tehsil

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Bihar CM, deputy CM Samrat Choudhary call on PM Modi, Shah to apprise about ongoing goverance

Commissioner News Service
NEW DELHI : During first visit to national capital Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Monday met Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah after retaining charge of the eastern state a month ago following the NDA's landslide victory in the assembly election.

Nitish Kumar, accompanied by Bihar Deputy Chief Minister and BJP leader Samrat Choudhary and JD(U) leader and Union Minister Rajiv Ranjan Singh, met Modi and Shah separately and is believed to have discussed various issues—both development and political—related to the state.

“Chief Minister of Bihar, Shri @NitishKumar, Deputy CM, Shri @samrat4bjp and Union Minister, Shri @LalanSingh_1 met Prime Minister @narendramodi today,” the Prime Minister’s Office said on “X”.

Earlier, the chief minister, along with his deputy Choudhary and Union Minister Singh, met Shah at his residence.

“Met Chief Minister of Bihar Shri @NitishKumar ji, Union



Minister Shri @LalanSingh_1 ji, and the Deputy Chief Minister of Bihar Shri @samrat4bjp ji. Under the leadership of Modi ji and Nitish ji, the NDA government is committed to taking public welfare and good governance in the state to even greater heights,” Shah said in a message on “X” in Hindi.

After their meeting with the prime minister, Choudhary said that following the resounding mandate received by the NDA in Bihar, the chief minister, he and Singh had a courtesy meeting with PM Modi, the “world’s most popular leader”.

“Under the guidance and leadership of esteemed Modi ji,

the country and Bihar are continuously progressing. During this time, valuable guidance was also received on the goals of a developed Bihar,” Choudhary wrote on “X” in Hindi.

During their meetings, the Bihar leaders are believed to have discussed various issues related to the development of the state, sources said.

The expansion of the state cabinet and the forthcoming elections to five Rajya Sabha seats are learnt to have figured in the meetings, sources said.

Kumar had arrived here on Sunday for a two-day visit and returned to Patna this evening. Election to the 243-member Bihar Assembly was held in November, in which the NDA secured 202 seats and Kumar returned as chief minister for the 10th term in office.

Among the NDA partners, the BJP won 89 seats, the JD(U) bagged 85, the Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) 19, Hindustani Awam Morcha (Secular) five and Rashtriya Lok Morcha won four seats.

Longer work visas opened for Indian students; 5,000 professionals to benefit in New Zealand

Commissioner News Service
NEW DELHI : Under the concluded trade pact, New Zealand has liberalised mobility provisions enabling Indian students to access longer post-study work visas and allowing 5,000 Indian professionals, including yoga instructors and chefs, to work in the Oceania country.

“The students going to New Zealand for study will now be eligible for a two-year work visa if they take degree course, three-year work visa if they take bachelor degree with honors or are graduate in STEM disciplines and a four-year work visa if they do postgraduate studies in New Zealand,” Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal told reporters here.

The two countries on Monday announced closure of the FTA negotiations. It is expected to be signed and implemented in about 7-8 months from now. The Union Cabinet approved the pact last week. The pact also needs approval from the New Zealand parliament.

As per the pact, New Zealand has, for the first time, signed an annexure on student mobility and post-study work visas with any country, offering no numerical caps and locking in



20 hours a week of work rights for Indian students. He also said that almost 5,000 of India professionals such as yoga instructors, chefs, Ayush professionals, IT, education teachers, nurses, caregivers, will get professional visas for serving the New Zealand economy.

At present, an estimated 12,000 Indian students are enrolled in various courses in New Zealand. The pact provides for a Skilled Employment Pathways through a new Temporary Employment Entry Visa pathway for Indian professionals in skilled occupations, with a quota of 5,000 visas at any given time and a stay of up to three years. It is in addition to the existing visa pathways; “therefore, professionals and skilled workers can continue to apply to go to New Zealand under the existing visa regime (e.g. Accredited Employer Work Visa, Skilled Migrant Category Resident Visa, etc),” the Commerce Ministry said.

Over 2.12 lakh PUCs issued in four days, 10,000 vehicles fail tests under GRAP-IV in Delhi

Commissioner News Service
NEW DELHI : “Stringent action against polluting industries and private offices flouting work-from-home directives will be taken” warned Delhi Environment Minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa.

More than 2.12 lakh new Pollution Under Control (PUC) certificates were issued in the last four days following the strict implementation of GRAP-IV measures, even as around 10,000 vehicles failed mandatory emission tests, said on Monday.

Addressing a press briefing, Sirsa said the strict restrictions imposed under GRAP-IV over the past four days have begun yielding results.

He said more than two lakh vehicles have undergone PUC tests since the “No PUC, No Fuel” rule came into effect, while nearly 10,000 vehicles failed mandatory emission tests. The minister said the



government has further intensified enforcement from Monday to identify polluting industrial units, adding that those found violating air-pollution norms will be sealed immediately without notice and also warned that industries failing to apply for the mandatory Online Consent Management (OCM) by the December 31 deadline will face strict action.

Sirsa also said the Municipal Corporation of Delhi and the Delhi Pollution Control Committee are jointly identifying illegal and unauthorised industrial units

operating in the city and all such units are liable to be shut down.

“There is zero tolerance for pollution. Any industry harming Delhi’s air will not be spared,” he said.

He said that all PUC centres are being upgraded with modern, high-capacity equipment to reduce delays and ensure accurate emission testing, while a third-party inspection mechanism is being introduced to enhance transparency. Technical teams from the transport department are conducting continuous monitoring to prevent malpractice, he added.

The minister also said round-the-clock mechanical road cleaning and water sprinkling are being carried out to control dust, while large-scale bio-mining operations continue at landfill sites. Nearly 35,000 metric tonnes of legacy waste are being processed daily, he said.

ISRO set to launch next-generation communication satellite today

Commissioner News Service
CHENNAI : The BlueBird Block-2 satellite would carried into orbit on December 24, as part of a commercial deal with US-based AST SpaceMobile. The historic mission will deploy the next-generation communication satellite designed to provide high-speed cellular broadband directly to smartphones worldwide.

AST SpaceMobile is building the first and only space-based cellular broadband network, which is accessible directly by smartphones and designed for both commercial and government applications.



AST SpaceMobile has launched five satellites — BlueBird 1-5 in September 2024, which enable continuous internet coverage across the US and other select countries.

According to ISRO, the mission would be a dedicated commercial launch as part of the agreement signed between NewSpace India Ltd and AST SpaceMobile (AST & Science, LLC).

NewSpace India Ltd is the commercial arm of the Bengaluru-headquartered ISRO. The mission is part of the global Low Earth Orbit constellation to provide direct-to-mobile connectivity through a satellite. This constellation would enable 4G and 5G voice and video calls, texts, streaming and data for anyone at anytime, ISRO said.

Kangana to appear on January 5 as the court case deferred

Commissioner News Service
BATHINDA : “Kangana did not appear in court on Monday, and her proxy counsel had filed an application seeking her exemption for the day, citing the ongoing winter session of the Lok Sabha, which was granted,” said Advocate Raghbir Singh Behniwal.

A special MP-MLA court on Monday adjourned the hearing in the defamation case against BJP’s Mandi MP and Bollywood actor Kangana Ranaut to January 5 after the prosecution witnesses and the accused failed to appear.

The case was listed for the cross-examination of the prosecution witnesses—complainant Mahinder Kaur, an elderly farmer from Bahadurgarh Jandian village here, and her relative Gurpreet Singh. Arguments on Kangana’s plea for permanent exemption from personal appearance in the court were also scheduled to be heard.

“Mahinder Kaur could not



appear due to her old age and the cold weather. The court has directed that all witnesses be presented by furnishing their names to the court as well as to the accused’s counsel before the next hearing. The court has also directed Kangana to appear at the next hearing,” he added.

The case pertains to a 2020 tweet by Kangana during the farmers’ protest, in which she shared a photograph of Mahinder Kaur, mistakenly identifying her as Shaheen Bagh protester Bilkis Bano and alleging that such women were “available for Rs 100” to participate in protests. Mahinder Kaur filed a defamation complaint against her in January 2021.

Commissioner News Service
NEW DELHI : High-speed routes, designed for maximum speeds of up to 350 km per hour and an operating speed of 320 km per hour, will mark a transformative leap in India’s rail infrastructure, said the Union railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw while inaugurating the 16th International Railway Equipment Exhibition (IREE), 2025, at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi.

Unveiling an ambitious roadmap for the Railways, on Wednesday announced that the government plans to build 7,000 km of dedicated passenger corridors by 2047 under the Viksit Bharat vision.

Vaishnaw said the proposed corridors would be powered by indigenously developed signaling systems and modern operations control centres, ensuring both speed and safety.

He also outlined the



government’s futuristic vision for Vande Bharat 4.0, Amrit Bharat 4.0, and next-generation railway manufacturing standards. Highlighting the success of the Vande Bharat series, he said the third-generation train already meets global parameters, with acceleration from 0 to 100 kmph in just 52 seconds, faster than many trains in Japan and Europe, while maintaining low noise and vibration levels.

“Vande Bharat 4.0 will be a new benchmark in performance and passenger experience,” said Vaishnaw, adding that the upcoming

model will focus on superior seats, enhanced toilets, and refined workmanship. Discussing the Amrit Bharat series, the minister said the 2.0 version is already operational and the 3.0 model, based on push-pull technology, is being developed for long-distance routes. The 4.0 version, he added, will bring in new-generation trainsets and locomotives, expected to be ready for testing within 36 months.

Vaishnaw credited Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s leadership for what he termed “a decade of modernisation,” noting that more than 35,000 km of new rail lines have been laid and 46,000 km of electrification completed in the past 11 years.

“Our budget allocation for the Railways has consistently risen, reflecting the government’s commitment to a modern, self-reliant network,” he said.

Bangladeshi envoy over security concerns summoned by foreign ministry

Commissione News Service

New Delhi : India has lodged a strong protest against what it has called the "deteriorating security situation" around its mission in Dhaka. On Wednesday, India's foreign ministry summoned Bangladeshi envoy Riaz Hamidullah to convey its concerns about the actions of some "extremist elements", said the ministry in a statement. "We expect the interim government to ensure the safety of [Indian] missions and posts in Bangladesh in keeping with its diplomatic obligations," it added. The move comes after protesters in Bangladesh



began a march to the Indian high commission, seeking repatriation of former prime minister Sheikh Hasina, who has been in exile in India since student-led protests ousted her last year. Bangladesh has not responded to India's comments yet. On Sunday, Bangladesh had summoned India's envoy in Dhaka to protest against alleged "incendiary statements"

made by Hasina from Indian soil "to undermine the upcoming elections". Bangladesh is set to hold elections on 12 February under the interim government, led by Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus, which took charge after Hasina fled to India in August 2024. India has said it "categorically rejects the assertions" made by Bangladesh.

BJP captures maximum seats in large coalition with Shiv Sena, NCP during Maharashtra local polls

Commissioner News Service

Mumbai: The Mahayuti alliance of the BJP, Shiv Sena, and NCP has swept the elections to 288 municipal councils and nagar panchayats by winning 207 posts of presidents of local bodies on Sunday. The untrammelled run of the BJP, Shiv Sena, and NCP combine restricted the Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi to a collective tally of 44, showed the final figures shared by the State Election Commission. According to the SEC, the BJP won 117 posts of municipal presidents, Shiv Sena won 53, and the NCP won 37 posts. The Congress bagged 28, the NCP (SP) seven, and Shiv Sena (UBT) nine. Parties registered with the poll commission bagged four seats, while 28 seats of municipal presidents went to unrecognised registered parties. Five seats were won by Independents. The Opposition Congress and the Shiv Sena (UBT) have blamed the Election Commission for "facilitating" the victory of the Mahayuti.



"The BJP's success is a wake-up call for Eknath Shinde and Ajit Pawar... The BJP will 100 per cent expel these two allies," said state Congress chief - Harsh Vardhan Sapkal. Thanking the people, Union minister and the BJP's chief strategist Amit Shah -- in a post on social media platform X, formerly Twitter -- said the victory is the "people's blessing on the vision of the NDA central and state governments, led by Modi ji, for the welfare of all sections of society". Prime Minister Narendra Modi also thanked the people of Maharashtra. "We are happy that we were able to fulfil the trust shown in us by Modi ji's positivity and our leaders Amit Shahji, Naddaji, and Navinji," said Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis.

US intercepted an oil tanker off Venezuela

Commissione News Service

SINGAPORE : 'Oil prices rose on Monday as the U.S. had intercepted an oil tanker in international waters off the coast of Venezuela, raising fresh supply uncertainty.' "The market is waking up to the fact that the Trump administration is taking a headline approach to the Venezuelan oil trade," said June Goh, senior oil market analyst at Sparta Commodities. "Oil prices have thus been supported by this geopolitical news alongside the simmering Russian-Ukraine tensions in the background in an otherwise



very bearish market fundamentally," said Goh. The U.S. Coast Guard is pursuing an oil tanker in international waters near Venezuela, in what would be the second such operation over the week end and the third in less than two weeks if successful, disclosed officials

The White House did not immediately respond to a request for comment. A rebound in oil prices has been sparked by geopolitical developments starting with U.S. President Donald Trump's announcement of a "total and complete" blockade on sanctioned Venezuelan oil tankers and subsequent developments there, followed by reports of a Ukrainian drone strike on a Russian shadow fleet vessel in the Mediterranean Sea. "The market is losing hope that the U.S.-brokered Russia-Ukraine peace talks will reach a lasting agreement any time soon," he said.

Modi Govt demolished 20 years of MGNREGA in one day, VB- G RAM G Bill breathes anti village culture - Rahul

Commissioner News Service

New Delh: Accusing the Modi government of demolishing 20 years of MGNREGA in a single day, the new VB-G RAM G legislation as "anti village", dubbed Mr Rahul Noting that the VB-G RAM G Bill is not a "revamp" of MGNREGA, Gandhi said in a post on X, "Last night, the Modi government demolished twenty years of MGNREGA in one day. "It demolishes the rights-based, demand-driven guarantee and turns it into a rationed scheme which is controlled from Delhi. It is anti-state and anti-village by design." The Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha also said that MGNREGA gave the rural worker bargaining power. "With real options, exploitation and distress migration fell, wages increased, working conditions improved, all while building



and reviving rural infrastructure. That leverage is precisely what this government wants to break," Mr. Gandhi alleged. He said by capping work and creating more ways to deny it, the VB-G RAM G Bill weakens the one instrument the rural poor had. "We saw what MGNREGA meant during Covid. When the economy shut down and livelihoods collapsed, it kept crores from falling into hunger and debt," Mr. Gandhi claimed. It helped women the most — year after year, with women contributing more than half the

person-days, the Congress leader said. "When you ration a jobs programme, it is women, Dalits, Adivasis, landless workers and the poorest OBC communities who get pushed out first," he said. "To top it all, this law was bulldozed through Parliament without proper scrutiny. The opposition's demand to send the Bill to a standing committee was rejected. A law that rewires the rural social contract, affecting crores of workers, should never be rammed through without serious committee scrutiny, expert consultation, and public hearings." "PM Modi's targets are clear: Weaken labour, weaken the leverage of rural India, especially Dalits, OBCs and Adivasis, centralise power, and then sell slogans as reform," Mr. Gandhi said.

Scrupulous time distribution regime from Jan 26

Commissioner News Service

New Delhi : Equitable to poor litigants , time would be allocated at par with other high profiled litigants announced Surya Kant, Chief Justice Of India on 11 Dec. There would be a time limit from January for each advocate to conclude his/ her argument, since now unjustified, absolutely



unfair system is prevailing. Because of unending arguments of influential, high profiled advocates, poor litigant' s case is not taken up due to lack of time

factor, remarked CJI. Certain cases go on for days together with long debates where helpless poor litigants go back home disappointedly despite appearing on scheduled dates after paying requisite fee of lawyers. The high profiled manage the case in their own style and highhandedness before the judicial officers in the courts., opined CJI.

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Zelenskyy corroborates U.S. proposal of three-way talks subject to positive outcome in ending war with Russia

Commissioner News Service

Kyiv : President Volodymyr Zelenskyy pleaded that United States was proposing 3 sided talks on Saturday , having Russia, Ukraine and United States at the level of national security advisers.

The talks must facilitate more exchanges of prisoners and paved the way for meetings of national leaders. Zelenskyy, speaking to local journalists in Kyiv, said top Ukrainian negotiator Rustem Umerov had told him of the latest discussions that took



place on Friday with U.S. negotiators in the United States.

A new round was scheduled for Saturday, he said, focusing on Ukraine's post-war recovery. Russian special envoy Kirill Dmitriev was also in Miami for "If such a meeting could be held now to allow for swaps of

prisoners of war or if a meeting of national security advisers achieves agreement on a leaders' meeting...I cannot be opposed. We would support such a U.S. proposal. Let's see how things go." said Zelenskyy said Ukraine stood for proposals that would leave the "contact line" where it , and however we approach mhe issue, it is , authorities retain control over that part of Donbas that we control now."

Rajdhani Express Sairang -- New Delhi coaches derail in Assam, 7 elephants killed

Commissioner News Service

Gauhati : At least seven elephants were killed, and one was injured after a herd of jumbos was hit by the Sairang-New Delhi Rajdhani Express in Assam's Hojai district early Saturday, bemoaned rly officials . Five coaches and the train's engine were



also derailed, Initially, all eight elephants were reported to have been killed, though later it was said that one of them was found injured.

High Court issues notice to Sonia, Rahul in National Herald case on ED Plea

Commissioner News Service

New Delhi : On ED petition, the Delhi High court has sought responses from congress leaders MPs Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi and other accused, challenging a trial court order that refused to take cognizance of the agency 's (ED) charge sheet in the National Herald money laundering case while granting no stay. Justice Ravinder Dubeja issued notice on ED's petition seeking stay on Dec 16 order. The matter



would now be heard on Mar 22,2026. The trial had held that the cognizance of ED' s complaint was impermissible in law as the probe was not founded in a FIR under Prevention of Money Laundering Act but arose from a private complaint.

BJP preparing for elimination of Indian Constitution: Rahul Gandhi alleged in Germany

Commissioner News Service

New Delhi : " BJP is proposing elimination of the Constitution in India that grants equal rights to all and vowed to create a system of opposition's resistance". alleged Congress leader Rahul Gandhi while in Berlin the capital of Germany. At the Hertie School in Berlin last week, he also alleged that the BJP has launched a full-scale assault and has captured the institutional framework of the country to help use it as a tool for building its political power, and that is what the opposition is fighting against. In an hour-long video released by the Congress on Monday (December 22, 2025), Mr. Gandhi said India's largest and complex democracy is a global asset, and the "assault" on the Indian democratic system is also an attack on the global democratic system.



"What the BJP is proposing essentially is the elimination of the Constitution. Elimination of the idea of equality between states, elimination of the idea of equality between languages and religions, elimination of the idea of the central core of the Constitution, which is that every individual will have the same value," the leader of opposition in Lok Sabha said to a group of students at the Hertie School. In the video, 'Politics is the art of listening', Mr. Gandhi said that when there is an attack on the democratic system, the Opposition has to find ways to counter it and not merely say that there is a problem with the elections.

Bangladesh seeks extradition of Hasina for case trial

Commissioner News Service

Dacca/New Delhi : Bangla Desh has lodged a strong protest against what it has called the "deteriorating security situation" in Dhaka.

On Wednesday, India's foreign ministry summoned Bangladeshi envoy Riaz Hamidullah to convey its concerns about the actions of some "extremist elements", the ministry said in a statement. "We expect the interim government to ensure the safety of [Indian] missions and posts in Bangladesh in keeping with its diplomatic obligations," it added. The move comes



after protesters in Bangladesh began a march to the Indian high commission, seeking repatriation of former prime minister Sheikh Hasina, who has been in exile in India since student-led protests ousted her last year. Bangladesh has not responded to India's comments yet. On Sunday, Bangladesh had summoned India's envoy in Dhaka to protest against alleged "incendiary statements" made by

Hasina from Indian soil "to undermine the upcoming elections". Bangladesh is set to hold elections on 12 February under the interim government, led by Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus, which took charge after Hasina fled to India in August 2024. India has said it "categorically rejects the assertions" made by Bangladesh. The relationship between the countries has become strained since Hasina fled to India following mass protests. Dhaka has repeatedly asked for her extradition so that she could stand trial for her alleged crimes.

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Punjab School Education Board : 3047444
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